

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 25, 2022



BRIAN VALENCIA

Channing Tatum, star and co-director of the upcoming movie *Dog*, participates in a military working dog demonstration at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 10. Tatum arrived at JBSA on a USO tour to promote his movie, "Dog," while also getting to interact with JBSA members and see some of its missions.

Actor Channing Tatum visits JBSA, Military Working Dogs

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U.S. Army MEDCoE, others, host Limited Objective Experiment

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Audiology researchers connect with JBSA-Randolph warfighters

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Air Force's Daniel 'Chappie' James Jr. was 1st Black 4-star general

By Katie Lange
DOD NEWS

There are numerous Black American service members who broke barriers and could be highlighted during Black History Month. On Feb. 11, however, it was the 101st birthday of Air Force Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., the first Black to become a four-star general in any U.S. military branch.

James died shortly after he left service in 1978, but his accomplishments are worth celebration. As an Airman who served in three wars, James overcame extreme poverty, racism and segregation — including in the military — to become a skilled tactician in combat and a steady-handed leader whose speeches on patriotism and the American way were highly regarded.

Humble beginnings

James was born Feb. 11, 1920, in Pensacola, Florida, and was the youngest of 17 children. His dad was a laborer at a gas company and his mother was a teacher.

When James was young, his mother decided she would teach her own children because she wasn't impressed with the quality of education at the local segregated public school, according to an Air Force Magazine article. She started her own school, which gradually attracted other neighborhood kids. According to the article, she ran the school for 52 years until she died at the age of 82.

One of the most memorable things she taught her pupils was to never quit. Clearly, her youngest son took that to heart.

From dreams to reality

As a Black child in the segregated south, James wasn't sure what type of job he would one day be able to get, but he grew up watching the takeoffs and landings at nearby Pensacola Naval Air Station, which gave him the dream of being a pilot.

Chappie, as they called him — a nickname that was his brother Charles' until Charles passed it down to him — graduated high school in 1937. At 6'4" and 250 pounds, the athletic teen earned himself a football scholarship to the famed Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

According to Air Force historian Howard E. Halvorsen, James was expelled from his academic studies at Tuskegee his senior year for going on too many



COURTESY PHOTO

During the Vietnam conflict, Air Force Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. flew 78 combat missions, including the famous Operation Bolo mission in which seven communist MiG-21 aircraft were destroyed.

"escapades" that were frowned upon by the institution. However, he was still able to attend the Civilian Pilot Training Program offered through Tuskegee. It was one of the first training opportunities offered to minorities.

James graduated from the program in March 1942 with his civilian pilot certification. He did eventually earn a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee, too, Halvorsen said, but he didn't get that until 1969 when the school awarded him the degree based on the many credit hours he'd earned during his military career.

James met his wife, Dorothy Watkins, while they were both enrolled at Tuskegee. They married on the campus in November 1942 and had a daughter and two sons. The oldest of the two sons, Daniel James III, went on to have his own illustrious Air Force career.

James stayed at Tuskegee as a civilian instructor pilot for the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program until January 1943, when he joined the program himself.

He was commissioned into the Army Air Corps the following July; however, he was never sent overseas to fight in World War II after he completed his fighter pilot combat training. Instead, he spent the next several years training cadets in the U.S.

Combat capable

When the Air Force began implementing its desegregation plan in 1949, James was finally sent overseas. He was assigned to the 18th Fighter Wing's 12th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, an integrated unit in the Philippines. James later told his son that very few white service members initially talked to him, but he persisted anyway.

James was sent to Korea in July 1950 and completed 101 combat missions during his deployment. A year later, he was back in the U.S. and working his way up the ranks, including a stint at the Pentagon.

By the time Vietnam began, he was a colonel. In June 1967, James deployed to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, where he was named vice commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. The unit was under the command of then-Col. Robin Olds, who James knew from working at the Pentagon.

James flew 78 combat missions into North Vietnam and helped Olds to plan and lead the famed Operation Bolo in January 1967.

In what's often considered the greatest air battle of the war, U.S. fighters destroyed

'CHAPPIE' continues on 7

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

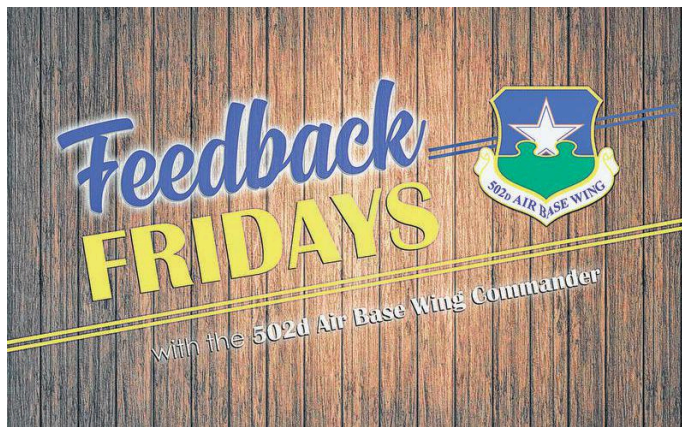
If you have a question or concern, please send an email to 502ABW.PA.official@us.af.mil com using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q: I would like to share some feedback from a member who has started the Privately Owned Firearm Possession process.

I went to the Pass and Registration Office to do the registration process and I was turned away with just the 2760 form. After following the provided checklist I was told that they aren't actually following the flowchart in the policy memo step-by-step.

I was given info on how to properly complete the new 802nd Security Forces Squadron



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Personally Owned Firearm process. This is the process that was outlined.

Out of the blank PDF fillable copies of the documents, only the Statement of Understanding, or SOU, appears to be digitally signable, while the others do not have digital signature fields.

Some portions were somewhat unclear, and the Pass and Registration Office couldn't give me

any info on it when I talked to them in person.

A: Thank you for sharing your concerns with us through Feedback Friday.

The 802nd Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration Office follows the process established in JBSAI 31-1131, Chapter 4.

Each Security Forces Squadron (502nd, 802nd and 902nd) may have slight variations in the internal

processing of receipt and delivery of the documentation. The 802nd SFS processing procedure supplements established JBSA guidance with specific information to Lackland's office responsible for processing these applications.

It is important to note that we will not send a member's SOU to the 502nd Security Forces Group commander for approval. It is the member's responsibility to staff their SOU to the 502d SFG/CC via workflow (502SFG.workflow@us.af.mil) for approval and signature.

Additionally, the 502nd SFG is publishing an interim change to JBSAI 31-1131 to resolve a few identified contradictions and add clarity to the process. Any questions or concerns regarding this process for JBSA-Lackland personnel should be directed to the 802nd SFS Pass and Registration Office via email at 802sfs.s5.passregistration@us.af.mil or by phone at 210-671-0805 or 210-671-0677.

If the Pass and Registration Office cannot answer your questions, or if you have concerns with the information provided, please contact the 802nd SFS Installation Access Control Section Chief at 210-671-8245. Thank you for your feedback.

Commentary: Hello, is anyone listening?

By Dennis Lange

88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Supervisors and employees who demonstrate genuine regard for human dignity and respect toward one another will encounter less stress and work-related issues necessitating

higher-level intervention.

As the chief of Complaints and Inquiries, I am often asked, "What are the most common issues brought to the IG for assistance?"

Undoubtedly, the predominant issues for resolution involve some

type of failure in communication and disregard for interpersonal human relations. They are often manifested in an adverse action or work-related matter.

I think most of us are pretty good at expressing our opinions, but how many of us are "good" listeners? Being an "active" listener takes practice, requires one's full attention and freedom from distraction.

In today's work environment, multitasking is commonplace and often prevents our full attention to the task at hand. When was the last time you walked into someone's office and wanted a few minutes of their time and attention? In return, the person continued typing on their

computer, being only superficially engaged in the conversation while answering a telephone call simultaneously.

As a viable solution to preventing and resolving workplace distractions, supervisors and employees should be encouraged to identify and address the issues and disconnects. Conversations should be respectfully candid and purposeful in nature to find a mutually acceptable resolution. Successful resolution of differences involves genuine engagement, respect and mutual negotiation.

The key here is a willingness to keep the two-way line of communication open and a cooperative desire to resolve the

issues. It is also reasonable that management's decisions be based upon the best interest of the organization and employee consideration, as much as possible.

So where am I going with this? The message is simple: If you want to lead and be part of an extraordinary and fully engaged performance organization, the team must be focused upon a foundation that promotes effective two-way communication and mutual respect.

That foundation must be solidified with meaningful social and interpersonal relationships, and personnel must feel necessary, relevant and recognized for their contributions.

JBSA First Sergeant Diamond Sharp Awards

By the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council

The Diamond Sharp Award is sponsored by the Joint Base San Antonio First Sergeants Council and recognizes outstanding Airmen who continually exceed the standard to meet the Air Force mission.

Tech. Sgt. Mariana M. Dahlberg

Unit: 59th Medical Operations Squadron
Duty title: Emergency Medical Services Section Chief

Time in service: 14 years


Hometown: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



Tech. Sgt. Mariana M. Dahlberg was the interim first sergeant for 10 days, during which she faced multiple significant events. First, one of her members was involved in a car accident to which she responded to support the member. Additionally, one of her members was injured during an attempted robbery. Dahlberg reacted to the incident, contacted the law enforcement agencies involved and coordinated with the casualty assistance office to support the critically wounded member. She epitomized what it means to be a first sergeant and continues to do so as lead of the Department of Defense's busiest emergency center.

Staff Sgt. Najwan H. Alobaidi

Unit: 33rd Network Warfare Squadron
Duty title: Maintenance Focal Point Supervisor
Time in service: 6 ½ years
Hometown: Baghdad, Iraq



Staff Sgt. Najwan H. Alobaidi took it upon himself to assist the JBSA-Lackland testing with updating their 20 language computers. His help was not requested, but he was in the center for his own test when he saw the need and jumped into action. On his own time, while leveraging his knowledge of Powershell®, he was able to update the Air Force's largest testing center. This helped JBSA-Lackland linguists, Foreign Area Officers, International Health Specialists, and Language Enabled Airman Program members save an incalculable amount of time on financial issues so their special duty pay would not be delayed.

Staff Sgt. Trisha Farala

Unit: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office
Duty title: Movement Support Lead
Time in service: 10 years, 9 months
Hometown: Oxnard, California



Staff Sgt.
Trisha Farala

Staff Sgt. Trisha Farala is a customer service supervisor at the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-South Central. In January, Farala managed the Long Delivery and Inbound Shipping Programs providing assistance to 312 joint service members. She oversaw 36 long delivery requests, obligating \$133,000 in transportation funds. She also expedited 38 direct procurement shipments, eliminating unnecessary storage days and saving \$3,800 of government funds. Additionally, she rectified 19 data corrections, validating \$1,000 in services rendered, resolving 238 calls and maintaining a 100% customer availability rate. Farala also garnered three credit hours towards her masters in healthcare administration degree.

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Layton

Unit: 319th Training Squadron Basic Expeditionary
Duty title: Expeditionary Skills Instructor
Time in service: 10 years
Hometown: Newark, Delaware



Staff Sgt.
Phillip A. Layton

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Layton has been leading a team of NCOs that have been revamping the curriculum at Basic Military Training. His job knowledge and vast breadth of experience from prior training has propelled him to spearhead change towards the future of how Airmen and Guardians are trained. These changes will enable our Airmen and Guardians to be more proficient war fighters in a time where we have near-peer competition. The exercises Layton has penned and managed are aligned with our modern adversaries and the challenges our Airmen and Guardians will face for the foreseeable future.

Senior Airman Sierra Iamaleava

Unit: 59th Dental Training Squadron
Duty title: Maxillofacial Prosthodontic Technician
Time in service: 4 years
Hometown: Long Beach, California



Senior Airman
Sierra Iamaleava

Senior Airman Sierra Iamaleava is an enormous asset to our flight and was selected for an E-5 position, Maxillofacial Prosthodontics NCOIC, by the department director. She teamed with six clinics between Brooke Army Medical Center, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and our dental group to provide critical treatment for wounded warriors and trauma patients. She improved the clinic by revamping the consults process, reviewing and organizing more than 700 referrals, while balancing patient care time. During an immersion tour, Iamaleava gave an informative briefing about the department's mission to Brig. Gen. Robert Bogart, Command Surgeon, Headquarters Air Combat Command.

Senior Airman Jacob S. Michael

Unit: 802nd Security Forces Squadron
Duty title: Unit Scheduler
Time in service: 3 years, 11 months
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas



Senior Airman
Jacob S. Michael

As part of "National Mentoring Month," Senior Airman Jacob S. Michael attended the "Mentor-centric" workshop hosted by the U.S. Air Force Academy. Employing the learned skills from this course, he cultivated a groundbreaking training schedule for mid-shift workers. Through application, he recovered 528 hours towards their work/rest cycle for nearly 88 enlisted and civilians. Furthermore, he stepped outside of his primary duties to aid the units training section by coaching 36 Airmen through Arming & Use of Force, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Adult/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Automated External Defibrillator, and First Aid courses.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

MEDCoE, others host Limited Objective Experiment

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Attendees from various Army medical commands across the military health system gathered to participate in a Limited Objective Experiment, or LOE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 7-11, 2022.

The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, and the Medical Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate, or MED CDID, under the Future Concepts Center, within the Army Futures Command, hosted the experiment.

The week-long event facilitated working groups and discussions focusing on how the Army Health System, or AHS, provides Force Health Protection, in the future operational environment in order to protect the Joint Force from environmental hazards and health threats in both competition and conflict in order to inform future concepts for the Army of 2030.

Col. James Jones, the director of the MED CDID, and an army physician assistant who holds a doctorate in health science, moderated the event. During his welcoming remarks, Jones cited historical examples in which force health protection played a major role in Soldier and unit readiness, highlighting the overall purpose of the event.

"The history of Force Health Protection and the importance of prevention of disease and injury in order to protect the strength and capabilities of our military population is critical for our future Army during large-scale combat operations, multi-domain operations and even during our current COVID-19 pandemic," Jones said.

He explained that large-scale disease and non-battle injury, or DNBI, prevention remains the top priority for the military health system and the total Army.

"Your efforts this week will inform policy and doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster (center), U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence commander, talks with Col. James Jones (left), director of the Medical Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate, and J.M. Harmon III (right), the MEDCoE deputy to the commanding general, during the Limited Objective Experiment at the Rehearsal of Concept Drill Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 7.

education, personnel, facilities and policy, solutions that will elevate all the way to the Secretary of the Army," Jones explained to attendees.

Since World War II, deaths attributed to DNBI range from 19% to 46% of total deaths in various conflicts. Equally if not more impactful, in WWII, 83% of days lost were attributed to DNBI versus combat injuries, and as recently as Operation Iraqi Freedom, 79% of air medical transports were conducted due to DNBI versus combat injuries, according to Jones.

"Commanders always report how many tanks, trucks and aircraft they have operational, but if Soldiers are not available to operate them, what good is the equipment?" Jones asked. "We must conserve the fighting strength."

He stressed the importance of ensuring combatant commanders understand the need to bring Force

Health Protection and prevention planning, training and resourcing to a level on par with combat casualty care.

Before he invited Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commander, to make opening remarks and kick off the event, Jones emphasized the link between the experiment and the MEDCoE, the Army's medical training and education institution.

"As we forge the future of medical support for the Army of 2030 and 2040, Maj. Gen. LeMaster and the MED CDID routinely emphasize the importance of conserving fighting strength," Jones said. "The Force Health Protection Limited Objective Experiment is a critical event that helps the total Army Health System meet this goal."

Not only is "To Conserve Fighting Strength" the MEDCoE's motto and emblazoned on the unit colors, training a

future medical health professional to provide preventative health measures in a multi-domain environment is also one of the command's top priorities and will shape future investments in science and technology for the school that trains more than 30,000 students annually.

LeMaster said, "This is an important experiment as we are going to get after gaps identified in the force health protection portfolio and identify solutions."

He remarked how pleased he was to see joint and international partners participating in the effort that he believes will inform joint health systems as well.

"Know that this effort is getting towards Joint Health System and fielding a ready force, whether it's Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and that is how we fight," LeMaster added.

During the five-day limited objective experiment, more than 100 in-person and virtual subject matter experts from across the health system enterprise were given an AFC scenario depicting U.S. military forces conducting operations across an extended geographical region in the 2035 timeframe. The scenarios provided various vignettes to examine conceptual methods to conduct FHP missions while surveilling, identifying, mitigating and communicating health threats, risks and hazards.

The results of the experimentation will be briefed to Army senior leaders through the FCC, and the AFC. Jones said the hand-picked experts will deliver analysis and proposed solutions to complex problems in the form of information papers and briefs produced through their contributions to the LOE this week that will help drive how the Army spends future funds and conducts future research in the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command.

"It is going to be a long week for participants," Jones said, "but it is invaluable."

To learn more about the MED CDID and the MEDCoE, visit <https://medcoe.army.mil/cdid>.

Army Maintenance Activity expanding to most facilities across 73 installations

By Erinn Burgess

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army Maintenance Activity, or ArMA, is expanding to most facilities across each of the 73 installations managed by U.S. Army Installation Management Command in 2022.

Aligned with Army modernization efforts, ArMA digitizes the work order process for all Army-owned facilities with a centralized system for submission and tracking.

“Automation of the maintenance-customer relationship is at the core of what we are doing,” said Doug Enfield, ArMA program manager. “This is part of the Army operating in the information age — not just for housing but for all facilities on the installation.”

“ArMA offers great benefits to our end users,” said Jason Root, Fort Knox Directorate of Public Works director. “Everyone is now able to identify and track the work that needs to be accomplished.”

The expansion to facilities, which debuted in fall 2021 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, will be deployed in waves to all installations enabling Soldiers, family members, civilians and contractors who live or work on post to submit online work orders for any Army-owned facility.

Fort Campbell is now averaging 250 work orders a day through the website.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

“We’ve seen a pretty significant increase in work orders put in, which we consider a good thing because that means people are out there using the application and seeing what they need fixed,” said Sean Nickley, engineering systems branch chief at Fort Campbell.

The ArMA system has processed more than 200,000 housing and barracks work orders since its launch in January 2021.

By including pictures and being as descriptive as possible when entering work orders, ArMA users enable service technicians to show up and resolve issues in as little as one visit. The system decreases the average age of a work order by 25% when pictures are included in the submission.

“The user can submit photos along with the work order to help the teams understand what needs to be done, which minimizes the times technicians need to

come to the job site,” Root explained.

Residents in Army-managed residences submit ArMA work orders through a user-friendly online database available 24/7, eliminating the need to make appointments or phone calls to service technicians. First-time users without an account are able to submit work orders in less than five minutes when using the CAC-authentication function.

This streamlined digital process will now be available for more than just residential spaces. Any registered user who notices a maintenance issue on their Army installation will be able to report the problem with ease.

“It feels like ArMA is directly connecting customers and Soldiers to the service ... the interface is very simple to use, but at the same time it’s innovative and it works,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Lockamy, the Army Barracks Management Program representative for 426th Brigade Support Battalion at Fort Campbell.

From now through the end of May, the ArMA team will reach all 73 IMCOM installations through a mix of on-site and remote support in an effort to complete expansion across the enterprise.

Stateside installations are expected to be complete by the end of April, with Europe and Asia following in May.

To use ArMA, visit www.armymaintenance.com or follow the link from within the Digital Garrison mobile app.

‘CHAPPIE’

From page 2

seven enemy MiG-21 aircraft during Bolo, which was the highest total kill of any air mission during Vietnam. The mission, which saw no U.S. losses, is how the 8th TFW earned its nickname “The Wolf Pack” — because Olds told his pilots they would be “wolves in sheep’s clothing.”

Steady under pressure

After returning to the U.S., James served as vice commander of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

He was persistent, tactically skillful and seen as a steady combat leader — attributes that earned him his next role as the commander of the 727nd Fighter Training Wing at Wheelus Air Base in Libya. It was August of 1969, and Muammar Gadhafi had just successfully overthrown the Libyan king.

The U.S. had agreed to turn Wheelus over to the Libyans prior to the coup, and James was responsible for the withdrawal. He kept a cool head despite the tensions, which led to a successful and conflict-free drawdown.

“James’ leadership and diplomatic skills were put to full use in that delicate situation in which the new anti-Western, radical Libyan leader sought to expel the Air Force,” Halvorsen later said. “Back home, James’ speeches on Americanism and patriotism were so well regarded, many were read into the Congressional Record.”

Military officials had begun to take notice of his public speaking skills when James was at Eglin. After Libya, he was tapped to be a deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. When he took the job in March 1970, he was also promoted to brigadier general, making him the first Black general in the Air Force.

In September 1974, James took over as vice commander of the Military Airlift

Command based at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He had been promoted twice by this time, attaining his third star as lieutenant general.

Making history ... again

On Sept. 1, 1975, James was officially promoted to the rank of four-star general, becoming the first Black man to attain that rank in the U.S. military.

“If my making an advancement can serve as some kind of spark to some young Black or other minority, it will be worth all the years, all the blood and sweat it took in getting here,” James said upon earning that fourth star.

Along with the promotion came the position of commander in chief of North American Aerospace Defense Command, which gave him operational command of all U.S. and Canadian strategic aerospace defense forces.

In December 1977, James took over as special assistant to the U.S. Air Force chief of staff, but he retired two months later on Feb. 1, 1978, for health reasons.

Sadly, James died in late February 1978 due to a heart attack. The 58-year-old was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Legacy

James’ successes earned him numerous military and national accolades throughout his career, including the George Washington Freedom Foundation Medal in 1967 and 1968. He was also awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from at least five higher-education institutions — along with his Tuskegee degree.

James’ name lives on across the military, but perhaps most notably at the institution at which his career started.

In May 1987, Tuskegee University dedicated the Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education to the general. The center includes the James Center Arena, where the school’s basketball teams currently play.

232ND MEDICAL BATTALION WELCOMES NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Col. Manuel Menendez (right), 232nd Medical Battalion commander, passes the unit colors to Command Sgt. Major Lori Ingram (left) while outgoing battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Chalawnda Kelley (center) looks on during the 232nd Medical Battalion change of responsibility ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 10. Ingram comes to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence from the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence at Fort Bliss, Texas, where she served as the operations sergeant major. The 232nd Medical Battalion is the largest training battalion in the U.S. Army responsible for training 68W Combat Medics.

Retired Army nurse turns 100 years young

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retired Col. Hazel Zachar summed up her 20-year career as an Army nurse in three words.

"I worked hard."

Zachar, who served from 1954 to 1974, celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 27 among friends and staff members at The Towers on Park Lane, a senior residence community located near Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, where she has lived for 27 years.

While she put in many hours and shifts being an Army nurse, Zachar said she did it for 20 years because she felt what she did was important to her, the people she worked with and the patients she cared for along the way.

"Nursing is meaningful," Zachar said. "I had a job and I was always enjoying it. It was always interesting."

Born and raised near Jefferson, Iowa, Zachar grew up on a farm with her late parents, Arthur and Bertha Brown, and two older sisters, who are now deceased.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Zachar said her parents taught her the values of hard work and honesty, which have guided her throughout her long life.

"I knew about hard work," she said. "You didn't cheat about anything, you didn't lie about anything — your word was absolute, solid, and honest. It's just part of me, I couldn't change it."

Zachar worked hard while attending Jefferson High School, graduating as the class valedictorian. She furthered her education by going to college and got into nursing as part of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Program, which was established during World War II to train new nurses, women ages 17 to 35, who were enrolled in nursing school. The students in the program received uniforms and tuition along with \$15 a month.

In 1946, Zachar graduated from the University of Colorado, earning degrees in both education and nursing. She then worked at the Methodist hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, for a few years before joining the Army in



Retired Col. Hazel Zachar served as a U.S. Army nurse from 1954 to 1974.

1954 at the age of 32.

Zachar decided to join the Army after her first husband, Capt. Bert Young, whom she married in 1948, passed away in 1953. Young had been in the Army for several years, having fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

"I thought there were a lot of opportunities and it looked more interesting than where I was in Rochester," Zachar said. "I thought I would try it, and I stayed for 20 years."

When she entered the Army, Zachar was commissioned as a first lieutenant because she had a college degree. She did her basic training at Fort Sam Houston and was then assigned to her first duty station, Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado, in 1955.

Besides Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Zachar's career as an Army nurse took her to several military hospitals in locations in the U.S. and around the world, including Okinawa, Japan; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Sam Houston, France, Germany and Fort Benning, Georgia.

While in the Army, Zachar completed the Advanced Career Course at Fort Sam Houston in 1963 and earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1968.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Retired Col. Hazel Zachar celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 27 among friends and staff members at The Towers on Park Lane, a senior residence community located near Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, where she has lived for 27 years.

Her final duty station was at Fort Sam Houston from 1970-74 where was the Chief of the Army Health Nurse Program at Brooke Army Medical Center. It was at Fort Sam Houston where she retired from the Army in 1974.

Zachar said she had several memorable moments in her Army career, including being on a team of pediatric nurses who took care of children who were recipients of open-heart surgery while she was stationed at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, where she served from 1955-58; being awarded the Legion of Merit award and the Army Commendation Medal. She was also on the first promotion list to be promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1967 after the law was changed earlier that year.

She said her favorite assignment during her Army career was at Fort Sam Houston because of the people she got to work with during her role as Chief of the Army Health Nurse Program.

"It was just a friendly, beautiful assignment," Zachar said. "I had a wonderful, professional staff to work with."

Zachar married her second

"I knew about hard work. You didn't cheat about anything, you didn't lie about anything — your word was absolute, solid, and honest. It's just part of me, I couldn't change it."

Retired Col. Hazel Zachar, former U.S. Army nurse

husband, Martin Zachar, whom she met while she was in the Army, in 1963. The couple was married for 36 years before Martin passed away in 1999.

Since becoming a resident at The Towers on Park Lane, Zachar has served on several committees at the senior residence facility and is the founder of the Towers Military Women Group, which she started 10 years ago. The group is made up of retired military women who reside in the senior residence facility and meet quarterly to share mementos, photos and share stories of their time in the service.

In addition, she has also given back to her hometown of Jefferson, Iowa, starting a scholarship in 1993 for the top female high school students who have graduated at the top of their class. Since the scholarship was established, Zachar said a total of \$100,000 has been awarded to 70 students.

Zachar said she appreciated the 100th birthday celebration planned by her friend Edie Weiskotten which was attended by approximately 100 residents and staff members at The Towers on Park Lane. "It was beautiful," Zachar said.



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

March

Attention

Due to COVID-19 event times and dates may change, and for the safety of both staff and customers, current HPCON guidance will be followed at all locations.

Aquatics

Students learn all that is required to be a lifeguard

Lifeguard courses are offered at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center March 12-15, March 17-20, April 2-3, and April 9-10. Classes run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$180 per course. Lessons are taught by the Fort Sam Houston Aquatics Center manager. A successful completion of a pretest is required for enrollment. For questions and enrollment, please call the Aquatic Center at 210-221-4887 or email FSHLifeguard@gmail.com.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center hosts their Train to Save Lifeguard Class March 12-14, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students earn an American Red Cross certification in Lifeguarding, First Aid and AED once they pass the course. This class takes place at the Skylark Aquatics Center, is for ages 15 and older and costs \$160 per person. To register, call 210-632-5868.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center hosts their Water Safety Instructor Course March 19-20, and March 26-27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students will earn an American Red Cross certificate in Water Safety Instruction once they pass the course. This class takes place at the Skylark Aquatics Center, is for ages 16 and older and costs \$160 per person. To register, call 210-632-5868.

Bowling

Youth have fun bowling over spring break

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center calls all kids to come out March 14-18 from noon to 5 p.m. for Spring Break Cosmic Bowling. Kids bowl for \$1 per game, per person. Rental shoes are included in the special. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center calls all kids to come out March 1, 15 and 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Spring Break Cosmic Bowling. Kids bowl for \$1 per game, per person. Rental shoes are included in the special. For more information, call 210-671-1234.

Bowlers enjoy special rates

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center offers patrons three games of bowling for \$5 every Tuesday and Wednesday from opening to closing. For more information, please call 210-221-4740.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center invites everyone to come by during regular business hours every Tuesday for \$5 bowling. Bowl three games for \$5. Patrons can also come by every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

and get a full hour of bowling for only \$7.50. For more information please call 210-671-1234.

Patrons bowl under the stars

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center holds cosmic bowling every Saturday from 4-9 p.m. everyone is invited to come out and enjoy this party under the lights at cosmic bowling while a DJ provides musical entertainment. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Check out the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. for Galactic Bowling. Galactic Bowling features cosmic lights combined with LED Center Punch Deck Lighting, LED Lane Capping, LED Ceiling Lights and is enhanced with three 118" projection screens playing "mom approved" music videos. Select your preferred exciting option to bowl at the special rate of \$15 per hour per hour of bowling. For more information, call 210-652-7271.

Clubs

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club invites everyone to come out March 11 from 5-11 p.m. to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and listen to some great music by DJ Tony Style. For more information, please call 210-645-7034.

Birthdays are celebrated

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club celebrates all birthdays for the month on March 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out for a complimentary lunch buffet. There is no cost for the birthday member. For those not celebrating the cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Coupons are not accepted for this event. For more information please call 210-658-7445.

Families come out for a movie

Bring the whole family to the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for a family movie night. April 1, 4-7 p.m. This event is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Patrons may make reservations beginning March 7 by calling 210-658-7445 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. or emailing jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com. There is limited seating and reservations are required. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo takes place at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club every Sunday, 3 p.m. and Monday-Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in the ballroom. Admission is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members have the chance to win full jackpots and nonmembers can try to win half jackpots. Don't forget to play every Tuesday and Wednesday to qualify for the monthly member prize give-away.

Bingo Extravaganza is held March 7 and 21, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a chance to win a larger jackpot. Birthday Bingo is held March 8. Club members with a birthday in March

receive a complimentary bingo machine. Randolph Club members only along with ID and proof of membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Patrons unwind after a long week

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Variety Night every Friday, 5-10 p.m. Come by and start the weekend off right as DJ Tony Style plays a wide variety of music in the Lone Star Lounge. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the weather out on the patio with pool tables and big screen TVs. For more information, please call 210-645-7034.

Canyon Lake

Boat tour offered at Canyon Lake

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake encourages everyone to come out for the Beyond the Marina Boat Tour March 5 and 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy an hour and a half chauffeured boat tour around Canyon Lake. Encounter breath taking scenic views, discover the lake's history and the town that still resides beneath. This is open to all DoD ID cardholders. The cost for the tour is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child 12 and younger. Register by contacting our call center at 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Patrons learn how to be safe on the water

Please join us March 12 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake at the Hancock Cove Beach for a two-hour class on the kayaks and paddle boards. The cost for the class is \$20 per person, and is \$10 for children 16 and younger. This class is required to rent kayaks and paddle boards at Canyon Lake. Youth, 16 and younger must be accompanied by a sponsor during the class and during equipment rental. To reserve a spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Patrons learn a new skill

Enjoy the cooler weather at JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake while learning a new skill at the Dutch Oven Cooking Class. Come out March 26, 1-2 p.m. and learn to make some scrumptious treats for family and friends. The cost for this class is \$20 per person and all supplies are included. To reserve your spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Customers save money with an annual pass

Purchase a Joint Base San Antonio Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake annual pass for \$75. Buy one and enjoy the lake all summer. This pass gets you into the both Sunny Side and Hancock Cove sides of the facility. Otherwise, the daily entry fee for the park is \$10 per visit, per vehicle. Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass and are valid for one year from date of issue. Annual pass holders are not charged the boat launch fee. For more information, call 830-226-5357.

The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Athletes push their limits

The JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center challenges everyone to come out March 7 at 11 a.m. for the Berserker HIT Challenge. This bodyweight workout is intense and will push anyone to the limit. This 16-minute work-out is in four-minute sessions with an active recovery in each session. Come see if you have what it takes to complete this challenge. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

Patrons are encouraged to try for their best time during the two-mile cardio challenge. Come to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Central Post Fitness Center Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. any time in March to participate. Prizes will be given to the two fastest times at the end of the month. This is open to all DoD ID cardholders. For more information, call 210-221-9393.

Patrons compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gilliam Fitness Center is proudly hosting a Quidditch™ Tournament March 25, starting at 7 a.m. Each Quidditch™ team must have at least five participants and each game will be 20 minutes in duration with a running clock. For the rules and more information, call 210-977-2353.

Golf

Golfers participate in a scramble

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course March 4, 12:30 p.m. for the Warrior Golf Scramble. The cost for this golf scramble is \$35 for DoD ID cardholders and Fort Sam Houston Golf Club members and \$45 for nonmembers. Price includes greens fee, golf cart and lunch for players. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Youth learn the game of golf

PGA teaching Pro Charles Bishop is conducting a junior golf school March 7-11 at JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course. Youth ages 8-15 are invited to participate and learn all aspect of the game. Fundamentals such as stance, grip and posture will be covered as well as the swing, putting and chipping strokes. There will be two sessions each day, one from 11 a.m. to noon for youth age 8-11 and one from 1-2 p.m. for youth age 12-15. The fee is only \$60 per participant. To reserve your spot, call Charles at 210-244-3415 quickly since there is only room for six youth in each age range.

Golfers compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts the Gateway Hill Round Up March 12-13, starting at 8 a.m. The event is a two-person, best ball team format. Entry fee is \$60 per person before COB on March 9 and includes range balls, tee gift and lunch after final round. The fee does not include greens fee and cart fee. Prizes will be awarded for Gross and Net winners. Sign up through the JBSA Golf App. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, call 210-671-3466.

Golfers demo the latest gear

Come out to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course March 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and try the latest golf equipment for 2022. The list of

vendors that will be on site is still being compiled, and more details will be available as the event gets closer. For more information, call 210-671-2006.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated

Celebrate the St. Patrick's Day holiday with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course March 12 with the Pot of Gold Scramble. Starting at 12:30 p.m., the format will be a Two-Player Scramble. The cost of this scramble is \$25. Entry includes green fee, cart fee, prizes and lunch. Sign up through the JBSA Golf App. The deadline to sign up is March 10. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, please contact the Golf Pro Shop at 210-222-9386.

Couples enjoy a dinner

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course for their Bi-Monthly themed dinner March 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m. This event's theme is a Star Wars Trivia night with assorted appetizers and drinks available from the bar. Reservations are required, so call 210-222-9386 to reserve your spot or sign up through the JBSA Golf App.

JBSA HARLEQUIN THEATRE
PRESENTS

JUKE JOINT

MARCH 11- APRIL 9
Doors Open 7 pm/Showtime 8 p.m.

Fort Sam Houston Theater 2417 Stanley Road

Featuring songs by Lady Gaga, Elton John, Spice Girls, Christina Aguilera, Guns N' Roses, Phil Collins, Aerosmith, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and more! We are teaming up with one of the premier dance studios in San Antonio to bring you a production like never before!

For more info or reservation, call (210) 222-9694

\$22 adults	\$10 12 and younger	\$18 Military Students
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Diners earn a free meal

JBSA Golf Courses are proud to offer the frequent diner card program. Pick up a frequent diner card at any JBSA Golf Course or Bowling Center Snack Bar. These cards are good at all JBSA Bowling and Golf Operations. After purchasing 10 combo meals, the 11th is free. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5863, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3466 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4653.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Patrons stay updated on travel deals

Tune into "Monthly Travel Talk" March 8, 11:30 a.m. via Facebook Live on the Joint Base San Antonio Information Tickets and Travel Facebook Page, facebook.com/JBSAINFOITICKETSANDTRAVEL. Get updates for attractions, pricing, travel deals, ask questions and talk about everything travel related. For more information please call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston office at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, or JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

Patrons save on money theme park admission

2022 Military Salute tickets for Disney Theme parks have arrived at all JBSA ITT Locations. 2022 Military Salute ticket prices are valid through Dec. 12, 2022. A 4-Day Disney Military Salute Ticket with Park Hopper Option is \$83 per day for a total of \$329 and a 5-Day Disney Military Salute Ticket with Park Hopper Option is \$70 per day for a total of \$349 for ages 3 and older. There is a strict limit of six per U.S. active-duty military and 100% disabled veterans. Due to stock limitations, we ask that ticket orders be placed 2-3 weeks prior to any travel dates. For additional information and eligibility rules, call 210-671-3059. Also, customers can plan their resort stay with up to 40% off Walt Disney World Resorts.

Universal Orlando Resort introduces the Military Freedom Pass offering DoD ID cardholders, 100% disabled veterans and their families a chance to visit the world-class entertainment destination all year and without blackout dates. This special offer of allows all eligible personnel to enjoy two or all three award-winning theme parks, including Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal's Volcano Bay. For more information, please call 210-671-3059.

Military & Family Readiness

Learn to interview with confidence

Participants learn essential preparation tips and build confidence for job interviews during the virtual Acing the Interview workshop, March 1 from 9-10:30 a.m. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Hands-on resume writing assistance

Job seekers get real time instruction for preparing a viable resume to use for job searching during the virtual Resume Writing Live workshop, March 1 from 1-3 p.m., and update their resume on the spot. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Service members review survivor benefits

Military personnel and their spouse meet with a Survivor Benefit Plan counselor to become familiar with the options, effects, and advantages of SBP during the virtual Survivor Benefits Plan briefing on March 10 from 9-10 a.m. To register, call 210-652-2104.

Call for Volunteer Awards Nominations

The JBSA-Military & Family Readiness Centers are accepting nomination packets for the Volunteer of the Year Awards and the Lifetime achievement Volunteer Excellence Award now through March 14, 2022. For

more information, visit www.jbsa.mil/resources/military-family-readiness/volunteer-resources, email randolphmfrc@us.af.mil, or call 210-221-2705.

What to expect when caring for an aging parent

Participate in a virtual What to Expect When you Have Aging Parents discussion, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for helpful tips in evaluating needs and review resources to help care for an aging parent. To register, call 210-221-2705.

New spouses acclimate to military lifestyles

Spouses new to the military learn about the mission, lifestyle, protocol, and available programs during Heart Link, a virtual spouse orientation, slated for March 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Savvy planning helps prepare for retirement

Attend the virtual Social Security and You workshop, March 24, 9:30 a.m. to noon, to review implemented changes to Social Security and how it may affect your retirement. To register, call 210-221-2705.

Credit and debt management offered

Learn debt reduction and management strategies to help minimize debt and improve your credit during the virtual Credit & Debt Management workshop is slated for March 24 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Outdoor Recreation

Concealed carry classes offered

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), bldg. 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes March 12 and 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must be 21 years old to register for the class, unless they are active-duty military age 18 or older. Students need to be familiar with their firearm; no first time shooters. Students must also meet Federal qualifications to purchase a handgun. The cost of the class is \$80. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas LTC license. To register, go to <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call Mr. Dan Willis at 210-363-2332 or the RNGRC at 210-295-7577 or 210-296-7529.

Archery takes on another dimension

The 3-D Archery Range at Camp Bullis consists of a course with 30 life-like animal targets such as bears, black panthers, deer, alligators, etc. The targets are set up between 5 & 55 yards at unknown distances. Traditional (Long Bows and Recurve Bows) and Compound Bows are allowed but no Crossbows. The RNGRC has Recurve Bows available to rent for \$15 each.

Come out March 26-27 for the 3-D Archery Competition. Registration for the Competition is between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The cost is \$10 for E-1 through E-4, active duty or medically retired, and \$20 for participants 13 years of age and older. The Fun Shoot Registration is between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The cost is \$5 for E1 through E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 for 13 years of

age and older and \$5 for youth 12 and younger. For more information, call 210-295-7577 or 210-295-7529.

Patrons rent all the recreation essentials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, to include camping, water fun, fishing boats, speedboats, sports and party equipment, tables, chairs and bouncy castles. There are also rental RV campers, mobile grills and portable grills. In addition, equipment rental has a resale car lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation offers a full list of party items for summer fun to include tables, chairs, cotton candy machines, margarita machines, party speakers, champagne fountains and many more items. For more information, please call 210-925-5532.

The JBSA-Randolph Equipment Checkout has tables, chairs, canopies, ice chests, and water jugs that might be needed for those birthday parties, holiday dinners or backyard BBQ. Patrons can also rent roll-a-way beds with mattress, aluminum cots, and sleeping bags for great prices. For more information, visit the Community Service Mall, bldg. 895, or call 210-652-5640.

Boaters learn the rules of the water

All JBSA-Outdoor Recreation locations require a Boaters Safety Course certificate from Texas Parks and Wildlife in order for customers to rent our motorized watercraft over 15HP.

Approved Texas Boaters Safety Courses can be taken online at: <http://www.boaterexam.com>, <http://www.boat-ed.com> or <https://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Texas.asp>. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225, JBSA-Lackland at 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533 and JBSA-Randolph can be reached at 210-652-5142.

Youth Programs

Teens learn how to prevent dating violence

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs invites teens to come out March 4 from 6-10 p.m. for the annual date awareness workshop. Registration is required by March 2. Attendees must be an active teen member of Youth Programs. There will be door prizes and lots of fun. For more information and to reserve your spot, call 210-221-3502.

Families go out for dinner

Come to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs March 9, 4:30-6 p.m. for Family Bistro Night. This is free for all active Youth Programs members and their family. Curbside delivery of a family meal based on themes of "Bring in the Spring" for March. All meals are prepared and served by our youth leadership clubs. Come early as plates are limited. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

Youth enjoy holiday themed milkshakes

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs March 17, 4:30-5:30 p.m. for All Things Green, Milk Shake Day. Youth will create their own "green"

milkshakes from scratch. Try a different recipe and make another green concoction. This event is free to active youth members. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

Youth skate the night away

Swing by March 25 from 5-7 p.m. for a free fun, family skate night at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch Chaffee Youth Center (YP2). Each family will receive one ticket for a door prize drawing. Please provide your own skates as there is limited availability. The March theme is "Spring Into Skating". To register or for more information, call 210-221-3502 by March 23.

Come roll with the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs March 25, from 7-9 p.m. at our monthly skate night. Open to anyone 9 and older, there will be skating, music and fun. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The cost is \$5 for members or \$7 for nonmembers. To sign-up, call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

Children learn the fundamentals of baseball

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs March 17 to April 1 to register children for First Steps Baseball. First Steps teaches the basic fundamentals of baseball in conjunction with gross motor skills for pre-school and early school age children. Parents are required to participate as an extension of the instructor. The cost is \$40 per child, and the session runs from April 25 to June 2. For more information, please call 210-671-2388.

March madness hits youth programs

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Center is holding a Basketball Madness watch party for the first round of the tournament. Youth ages 9 and older are invited to come out March 18, 7-9 p.m. We'll hang out and watch the top NCAA basketball teams compete for the national title and play a little basketball ourselves. Refreshments will be available. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. For more information and to sign up, call 210-652-3298.

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LACKLAND

Enhanced BMT integration helps create culture of dignity, respect

By Christa D'Andrea

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As early as 2015, the Air Force recognized the power of Basic Military Training enhanced integration in creating a climate of dignity and respect.

Enhanced integration beta tests in 2015 and 2019 demonstrated those exact benefits and yielded lower levels of trainee misconduct. Further implementation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the first Airmen assigned to enhanced integrated flights at BMT graduated Jan. 13.

Today, a limited number of flights in each BMT squadron are integrated into all aspects of training aside from sleeping and hygiene time.

"Nowhere else in the Air Force do we operate in single-gendered formations," said Lt. Col. Michelle Sterling, 324th Training Squadron commander. "It's appropriate to start our newest Airmen in the environment we expect them to operate in throughout their careers."

While the 324th TRS is the first squadron to integrate a limited number of flights, enhanced integration is being phased in as each BMT squadron picks up a new class of trainees — meaning one squadron per week began integrating flights. The 320th TRS is the final squadron to integrate and picked up their class Jan. 18.

Despite COVID-19 originally delaying flight integration, "we have mastered protocols and procedures in the last 18 months that enabled us to move forward," Sterling said.

The vaccination requirement, coupled with COVID-19 protocols and strict hygiene and cleaning discipline, contributed to ensuring the safety of all personnel.

Sterling added that BMT leveraged the lessons learned from beta tests in 2015 and 2019.

"It was clear to us that the trainees would take their cues from their instructors not just on folding clothes or making beds, but on their



CHRISTA D'ANDREA

Airmen assigned to the 324th Training Squadron march during the Basic Military Training graduation ceremony Jan. 13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

professionalism," she said. "We established MTI team chiefs for each set of integrated flights to increase supervision and decrease the administrative burden on individual MTIs to allow them to focus on the flights and forming multiple high performing teams."

All dormitory flights are paired and combined to form integrated training flights. In the case of the 324th TRS that meant eight training flights were gender-integrated, while the remaining six flights were all male.

BMT partnered with the RAND Corporation to do a deep dive of the enhanced integration plan.

One of the main issues reviewed was that of balancing integration with isolation.

"One of the many questions we asked was about any concerns of a minimum percentage of females in a flight," said Bill Fischer, BMT Training Director.

The 2018 RAND Report and the associated literature review indicated there should be no less than 15% of women in any flight and that percentages lower than that would

create isolation.

"Although it's an extreme example, having two females in a flight of 50 isn't really integration and can actually do more harm than leaving those two females in an all-female flight," Fischer added.

While every female trainee will train in a gender-integrated flight, not every flight will be integrated as female-male. However, BMT leadership stated that there are benefits of integrating flights, whether male-male or male-female. The integration means Military Training Instructors will get exposed to more of their fellow trainees and enhance their training as they could be pushing a female flight for one class and then a male flight the next.

The 2018 RAND report also highlighted the potential benefits of enhanced integration. For example, the report states that "generally research suggests that [enhanced integration] improves female performance and does not adversely affect male performance in terms of both readiness and cohesion."

Additionally, it points out that in

some cases there were higher physical fitness, marksmanship, and individual proficiency test scores in a sample of Army integrated units; and that in one study two-thirds of respondents stated that having men and women in basic training made it easier to adapt once in integrated operational units. Some research also indicates that integration improves teamwork. *[RAND, An Assessment of Options for Increasing Gender Integration in Air Force Basic Military Training, pages 5-13.]*

Full integration (all flights in all squadrons) will be implemented when the BMT electronic system of record is upgraded to administratively support the logistics associated with blending flights.

"Exposure to more people of any background will hopefully lead to more resilient and more adaptable Airmen," said Col. Rockie K. Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander. The 37th TRW is home to the Department of the Air Force's only basic military training location.

Males and females remain segregated for sleeping and hygiene. MTIs may, at times, conduct classes in the dormitories or day rooms, but at no time will trainees be in mixed-gender formations in the dormitories unsupervised.

BMT is anticipating the electronic infrastructure that helps MTIs maintain accountability and manage schedules to be updated in spring 2022. With this upgrade, BMT will then move into full integration.

"Updating the IT infrastructure is one of our highest priorities," said Col. Jeffrey Pixley, 737th Training Group commander. "When integrating two flights, MTIs are currently able to manage the accountability and schedules. However, it would be an administrative nightmare and we risk losing accountability if we attempt to integrate the entire squadron right now."

By the summer of 2022, every flight in BMT is projected to be integrated.

JBSA-Lackland prepares for command cyber readiness inspection

Lt. Col. Christopher M. Waddell

COMMANDER, 502ND COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland will undergo a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection, or CCRI, as an inspection team from the Defense Information Systems Agency will conduct a thorough evaluation of all network systems from Feb. 28 to March 11.

The main focus of the inspection will be on the Nonsecure Internet Protocol Router Network, or NIPRNet, the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, known as the SIPRNet, and supporting traditional security practices.

The agency will inspect work centers, looking for adherence to standards and will also check JBSA-Lackland's technical and information systems for vulnerabilities.

In addition, DISA will inspect technical and operational adherence to the Department of Defense standard practices and policies, which include secure and non-secure cybersecurity network compliance and physical security practices.

In order to ensure JBSA-Lackland passes the inspection successfully, every unit and network user has a responsibility for being knowledgeable on proper cybersecurity, traditional security and physical security practices.

Commanders and senior civilian leaders at all levels within their organizations are asked to check and re-check that these standards are being adhered to — down to the individual user — to ensure awareness and compliance with cybersecurity measures.

The following are some tips network users can follow to ensure compliance success:

Cyber Security

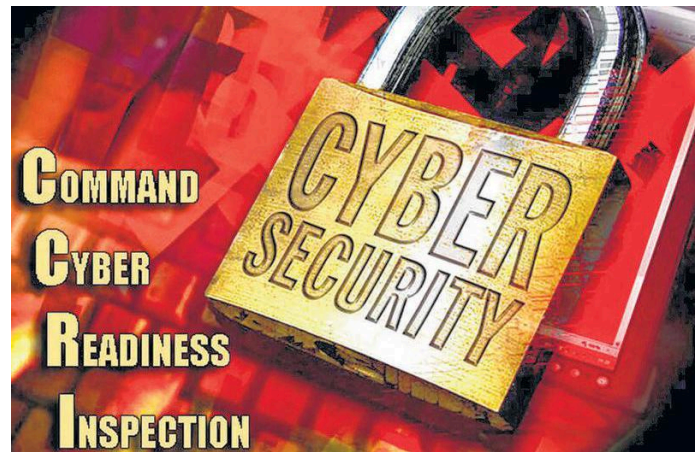
► Read your Acceptable Use Policy, or AUP. As users of the Air Force network, you sign an AUP when first being allowed access to any Air Force network. It contains all the basics you

need to know to keep you compliant when using Government computer systems. Mobile device users are required to sign an additional AUP tailored for the device usage.

- At the conclusion of the business day, log computers off the NIPRNet system and restart the computer to ensure security patch compliance.
- Power on and log in to SIPRNet systems during mandatory SIPRNet "uptime" periods as established by the 502d Communications Squadron. Staying connected during the entire period is essential to systems getting the required updates.
- Do not pass any information, especially critical operational traffic, over unclassified communications, such as phone, email, Facebook, etc.
- Remove Common Access Cards, SIPR tokens and secure all SIPR hard drives prior to leaving computers unattended.
- Do not plug unauthorized electronic devices, like thumb drives, hard drives, portable media players or cell phones into a government NIPRNet or SIPRNet computer system unless you have an approved exemption letter.

Traditional Security

- Know who your unit security managers, information protection officers and information system security officers are and how to contact them.
- Verify security clearances and escort unauthorized personnel.
- Properly safeguard classified systems to include proper completion of applicable Standard Form 700 (security container information), SF 701 (activity security checklist) and SF 702 (security container check sheet).
- Use proper document cover sheets and face your monitors away from your doors and windows to eliminate viewing by unauthorized personnel.
- Properly label disc media and have proper classification markings, such as a Department of Defense Form 2056 (telephone monitoring notification decal) on communications equipment like computers, monitors, phones, etc., in a mixed environment.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

- Know how to identify and respond to a network security incident or negligent disclosure of classified information.
- Never bring portable or wireless electronic devices within three meters of a classified processing system.
- Ensure all Common Access Cards and SIPRNET tokens are not left

unattended in personal computers. They must be with you at all times.

For more information or assistance on keeping your areas inspection ready, contact your unit's security manager or your unit ISSO.

For Communications Focal Point support, call 210-925-2666 or email 502cs.cfp@us.af.mil.

Actor Channing Tatum visits JBSA, Military Working Dogs

By Brian J. Valencia

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Channing Tatum, star and co-director of the upcoming movie "Dog," visited Joint Base San Antonio Feb. 9 on a USO tour to promote the movie, visit with military members, as well as learn about the missions of various units.

During the visit, Tatum and his group were able to get a close-up view of the mission of the Brooke Army Medical Center's Center for the Intrepid and BAMC USO office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; the Lt. Col. Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital and MWD Whelping facility at JBSA-Lackland; and the 902nd Civil

Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal unit at JBSA-Chapman Annex. Tatum also participated in a military working dog demonstration.

JBSA members were able to get a prescreening of the movie at JBSA-Kelly Field, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. In the movie, Channing plays former U.S. Army Ranger Jackson Briggs, who is trying to bring his fallen comrade's dog, a Belgian Malinois named Lulu, to his friend's funeral in time.

A video from the visit can be viewed at https://youtu.be/RS-H3i_LgLo, while additional photos can be seen at https://www.flickr.com/photos/jbsa_publicaffairs/albums/with/72157657732321120.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN J. VALENCIA

Channing Tatum, star and co-director of the upcoming movie "Dog," participates in a military working dog demonstration at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 10.



Actor and director Channing Tatum gets acquainted with a military working dog puppy at the MWD Whelping Facility at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 10.



Channing Tatum (left), star and co-director of the upcoming movie Dog, is greeted by Col. Bryan Logan (center), deputy commander, Joint Base San Antonio and vice commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing, and Chief Master Sgt. Casey Boomershine (right), Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 502nd ABW and JBSA, at JBSA-Kelly Field Feb. 9.

AFIMSC Worldwide pursues innovation, automation to streamline finance operations

By Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's annual financial services workshop continued to standardize financial operation processes to ensure Airmen and Guardians are paid timely and accurately.

AFIMSC welcomed more than 940 financial services professionals from the Department of the Air Force to its fifth annual Financial Services Operations Worldwide. Held virtually, the Resources Directorate Financial Operations Division hosted the event during the second week of February.

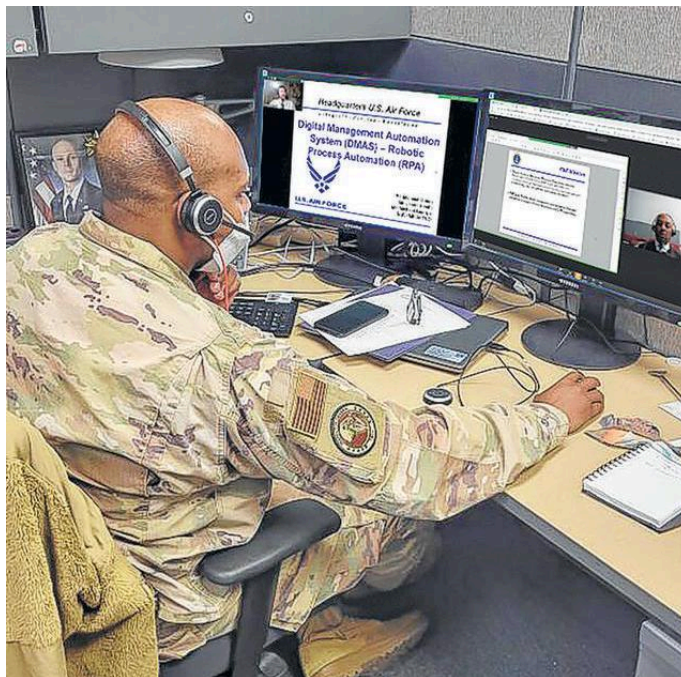
AFIMSC hosts the annual workshop to provide intermediate-level command policy, procedures and standardized training to installation financial services professionals across the enterprise.

"This year's event gave leaders at all levels a chance to learn about the future of financial services and talk about issues affecting the enterprise," said Eric Cuebas, Air Force Accounting and Finance Office finance director. "It allowed leaders to hear, first-hand, about the issues facing the field. Ultimately, bringing the community together like this allows the sharing of ideas and best practices, which in turn means taking better care of our Airmen, Guardians and their families."

Even though attendees missed out on in-person interaction, Monica Anders, AFIMSC Resources director, said the event was a success due to the hosts using technical capabilities honed from past virtual efforts while incorporating feedback and lessons learned to deliver unique opportunities that only this event can bring.

Department of Defense and Air Force senior leaders also attended, speaking to challenges facing the financial services community and listening to ideas from attendees.

"The experts are in the field," said Fredrick E. Carr, deputy assistant secretary for financial operations. "The interaction and feedback with the participants is success in itself. Whether it be how to solve an issue virtually due to COVID-19 constraints or understanding their challenges with policy or procedural changes, the



COURTESY PHOTO

Master Sgt. Lawrence Robinson, an inspector with the office of the Inspector General at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, attends the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's FSO Worldwide, Feb. 8-11.

implementers are the front line to sustained good stewardship."

Each year, the FSO Worldwide provides a forum for leaders to identify talent and encourage financial service professionals to spark innovations across the enterprise.

"At the 2018 Worldwide, I asked, 'Why aren't we learning ways to automate our work?'" said Master Sgt. Sam Spaethe with the Financial Management Resource Training Center at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. "One of the chiefs in attendance encouraged me to find a solution, so I took a week of leave and built a script to automate a certain aspect of Defense Travel System that syncs travel dates and destinations to military pay entitlements. This tool saved us 12 hours per week at Hurlburt Air Force

Base, Florida, and has since been scaled to the whole enterprise, saving thousands of hours for financial management Airmen worldwide."

Spaethe returned one year later to the 2019 FSO Worldwide as a speaker to share his innovation and train others on automation.

This year, AFIMSC introduced Robotic Process Automation.

"One of the exciting things we talked about this year was the prioritization of Robotic Process Automation in our daily efforts," said Linda Alcalá, AFIMSC's financial operations chief. "This innovative way of doing business reduces the need to perform mundane and manual tasking, increases productivity and gives our financial management Airmen the ability to retrieve accurate data for better decision making."

In addition to the innovations and leader discussion groups, FSO provides training and knowledge sharing on military and civilian pay, government travel card, and temporary and permanent duty assignment pay, among other topics.

"The exchange of best practices, the networking and the opportunities to develop new partnerships for future collaboration at these events is crucial in our field," said Master Sgt. Lawrence Robinson, an inspector with the office of the Inspector General at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. "In 2020, I was the NCOIC at the 633rd Comptroller Squadron, and at that year's Worldwide I was introduced to the Resource Training Center and the Financial Information Collaboration Space website. I was able to take these new tools and guides to enhance the training of the Airmen I supervised, allowing them to better serve the 16,000 Airmen and civilians assigned to the base."

Like Spaethe and Robinson, Air Force leadership encourages the financial services community to take advantage of what FSO Worldwide offers.

"Financial service professionals are a force multiplier, and a weapon system when operating at max capacity and capability," Cuebas said. "Ensuring we address pay issues as expeditiously as possible or better yet, eliminating, is key to our Air and Space Forces' continued dominance of the battlespace."

"And this conference does exactly that, arms our financial managers to better serve the Airmen and Guardians by giving them tools, ideas and contacts to put in their toolbox, which they can use to do their jobs at the highest level possible."

AFIMSC has hosted the FSO Worldwide since 2018 and reached more than 2,500 Airmen and Guardians.

"We are strengthening Airmen, Guardians and their families," said Kurt Schmidbauer, AFIMSC's Resource Management Financial Operations Branch chief. "FSO Worldwide is designed to encourage learning, foster the crossflow of information across installations, and encourage innovative solutions, all with the goal of providing timely and accurate pay."

"Financial readiness directly supports mission readiness."

RANDOLPH

Audiology researchers connect with JBSA-Randolph warfighters to guide tech development

By Larine Barr

DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY HEARING
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Researchers with the Defense Health Agency's Hearing Center of Excellence are connecting directly with warfighters, to better understand the hearing and balance challenges they experience in an operational environment.

"We're making a concerted effort to 'get out of the clinic' and connect and interact with operational military units in their mission environments," explained Dr. Jeremy Nelson, HCE research branch chief.

The team's first venture outside the clinic focused on pilot training and flight operation activities at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Dec. 7, 2021. There they met with staff and pilots from the 560th Flying Training Squadron, 559th Medical Group Flight Medicine, Aerospace Physiology, and Aircrew Flight Equipment.

"The objective here was to experience some of the noise exposures many of these individuals deal with regularly when performing their missions," said Nelson.

A tour of the 433rd Airlift Wing's C-5 hangar at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in early December completed the two-day outreach, where HCE staff got a firsthand look at C-5 flight operations with a tour of the aircraft.

"They demonstrated that hearing and balance health, as well as communication, play important roles in the execution of military training and flight operations," Nelson summed up after the tours. "For these kinds of engagements, the hope is for our team to gain a better appreciation of military flight



ELSA GRANATO

Natasha Gorrell, Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence, health promotion and education expert, tests out an ejection seat parachute harness trainer at aircrew flight equipment at the 12th Operations Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Dec. 7.

operations, and how things like movement and noise influence the ability to communicate," said Nelson. "This line-side military engagement was a great success."

According to Nelson, the overall

outreach initiative has several distinct functions.

"These activities will help us better understand warfighter missions and issues they encounter in the hearing, balance and communication spaces,

and will identify opportunities for HCE to potentially assist with operational or training missions," Nelson explained.

The activities could also serve as a way to talk with service members about hearing protection, overall hearing health, and HCE's mission to reduce noise-induced hearing loss, according to Nelson.

Nelson added the outreach could build a network of potential users interested in advancing technology transition and testing new or novel hearing protection devices.

"These interactions will hopefully influence nearly all activities at the HCE. By building a robust network of operational unit partners, we can more directly solicit feedback on initiatives and capability requirements, develop relationships for future studies, technology development, etc., as well as create awareness of and advocates for our organization," said Nelson.

The future warfighter outreach plan includes additional visits to operational units within the JBSA area, and visits to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. The outreach also will eventually leverage HCE's regional research teams across the United States to interact directly with all service branches, according to Nelson.

"Military medicine exists to, first and foremost, support the warfighter," said Air Force Lt. Col. Samuel Spear, HCE branch chief. "If we don't regularly engage with that audience, understanding the missions they perform and the challenges they encounter, there is a much greater chance we will miss the mark in our efforts to 'preserve the fighting force' and 'improve performance.'"

Senior Enlisted Advisor to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visits AFRS

By Randy Martin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

The most senior enlisted service member, by position, in the U.S. armed forces returned to San Antonio Feb. 9 for a talk with recruiters more than three decades after his own Oath of Enlistment first brought him to Texas.

“My journey started back in December of 1990 when I set foot on Lackland Air Force Base but I wouldn’t have been there if it wasn’t for the actions, the diligence and the professionalism of my recruiter,” said SEAC Ramón Colón-López, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In his current assignment, Colón-López serves as the principal military advisor to the Chairman on all matters involving joint and combined total force integration, utilization, the health of the force, and joint development for enlisted personnel. He is the fourth person to hold the title and SEAC is not only his duty position but it is also his rank.

The meeting with Air Force Recruiting Service recruiters and leadership was meant to give the SEAC insight into how the Joint Force is approaching today’s challenges. For AFRS members, the visit was a welcomed opportunity to enlist the highest echelons of the Department of Defense in their fiscal year 2022 campaign to achieve their Air Force and Space Force goal.

“SEAC’s interest and our ability to immerse him in



RANDY MARTIN

Brig. Gen. Lisa Craig (left), deputy commander of Air Force Recruiting Service talks to Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Ramón Colón-López (right) as they enter the Air Force Recruiting Service headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 9.

Air Force and Space Force recruiting given the limits of a pandemic along with other national recruiting challenges is an opportunity to showcase our Airmen,” said Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Goldstrom, command chief, AFRS at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

In January, AFRS commander Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas outlined challenges facing AFRS in a memo to the unit.

“Not two years into a pandemic, and we have warning lights flashing ... most notably our Qualified and Waiting list is about half of what it has been historically, lead conversions are down, propensity has dipped, unemployment is down, our public engagement and time in schools is at an all-time low, and we’ve had two years of limited recruiter training opportunities,” said Thomas.

When he took his seat in a conference room at the AFRS headquarters, Colón-López, a career Pararescueman, was prepared to talk about the mental and physical toughness which is required by all members of the DOD.

“I’ve been encouraging a lot of people to go ahead and memorize their oath,” Colón-López said to AFRS’s deputy commander, the command chief and senior staff leaders of AFRS’s operations and marketing directorates. “It’s a matter of priorities. We need to focus on what we are here to do and realize that there is a lot of sacrifice that goes with it.”

He outlined the top joint force recruiting priorities

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Wounded Warrior Outreach, Ambassador Program spread awareness

By Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

Take a moment to think about your favorite outfit, the computer or phone you are using, your favorite restaurant or coffee shop and some of the décor in your house. For most things we adore and surround our lives with, we heard about it from someone else.

This could have been on television, an advertisement on social media or word of mouth from a friend. When you hear someone talk about something they like so much, you have a tendency to look into it and see what it is all about. That is the benefit of having the Air Force Wounded Warrior, or AFW2, Outreach and Ambassador Program.

The Outreach and Ambassador Program was implemented in 2016 when a staff member, who was also a Wounded Warrior in the program, saw the need to spread awareness about AFW2 and all they do for Airmen and now Guardians. What better way to do that than hearing from those who have been directly benefited and affected by the program?

"The Outreach and Ambassador Program exists to close the gap of awareness among the Air Force and Space Force personnel," said Melissa Wiest, Outreach and Ambassador Program manager. "It serves as a marketing tool to educate Airmen and Guardians on the resources needed to



SHANNON HALL

The Outreach and Ambassador Program was implemented in 2016 when a staff member, who was also a Wounded Warrior in the program, saw the need to spread awareness about AFW2 and all that they do for Airmen and now Guardians.

help Warriors adjust to their new normal."

One of the best ways to spread awareness of the AFW2 program is by word of mouth from those who live it every day. For this reason, the Outreach and Ambassador Program is in charge of setting up briefings at all Air and Space Force installations across the world. This is the best way to bring the reality of the trauma the Warriors have faced and the strength they have to

continue to those who don't walk in their shoes or understand their struggles.

"Providing an AFW2 program overview coupled with an Ambassador's testimony of tragedy, recovery and resiliency to audiences makes a strong, positive impact within the Air Force culture and spreads awareness of the AFW2 program and all of the services provided," Melissa said.

AFW2 staff members can brag and

promote the good the program does all day, but it can be hard to understand the full impact of the services provided without hearing from a Warrior about their Recovery Care Coordinator fixing their pay, or the Community Program team getting them connected to other Warriors in their community.

These stories highlight areas where AFW2 helped strengthen their resume to help them get their dream job after working with the Empowerment in Transition team or being able to feel the wind in their hair after they joined Adaptive Sports and can get back on the track.

"Our Ambassadors are important because they are able to put a face and story to recovery, and show that difficulties in life can be overcome," said Col. Richard Obert, AFW2 director. "Hearing these stories should be a top priority for all of our Airmen and Guardians."

With the ever-changing COVID-19 environment, the Outreach and Ambassador team can travel to some locations and they also conduct briefings virtually. To get on their schedule, send a request to their email at AFPC.DPFW.AmbassadorWorkflow@us.af.mil.

To learn more about the Outreach and Ambassador Program, along with all the other services AFW2 offers, or to refer an Airman or Guardian, visit the website at www.woundedwarrior.af.mil.

AFRS

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for the CJCS and the Secretary of Defense. They include the physical fitness of potential service members, recruitment marketing to counter possible negative sentiments of influencers regarding military service, and the preservation of Americans' support for their armed forces.

Colón-López recalled the impact his recruiter had when they met in the SEAC's hometown, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

"My message to you is pretty simple," Colón-López said. "If you're going to be out there on the front lines getting America's best and brightest, make sure that you make that difference. That they not only remember your name long after serving but they remember the impact

you make on their life because that is really the true core of who you are."

The SEAC left AFRS's headquarters accompanied by AFRS's senior enlisted leader, armed with information for the remainder of his visit and the subsequent return to the Pentagon.

"Our headquarters staff, including operations and marketing directorates, provided a relevant and data-supported presentation which left the SEAC in a better position to advise the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on AFRS's operations and our people," said Goldstrom.

Goldstrom designed a two-hour tour covering as much of the recruiting enterprise as possible. Their first stop included a meeting with enlisted accessions recruiters from the 341st Recruiting Squadron in the Live Oak, Texas, recruiting station.

There, Colón-López encouraged

recruiters to set high goals for themselves. He described his own motives for enlisting and compared that drive to the current Generation Z's values and interests.

"What they are looking for now is education, stability, providing for their family, a trade that they can use to continue to make a living," Colón-López said. "But they also need to understand the sacrifice that they will have to make."

Colón-López presented each recruiter a Challenge Coin as a memento of the visit. According to the SEAC, it is modeled on a World War II-era dog tag so that recipients are reminded of sacrifices made by generations of service members. Its front features the SEAC's positional colors and signature to represent his commitment to every person under his responsibility. The back has an imprint of the U.S.

Constitution and service emblems of the Joint Force among other meaningful elements.

The final stop for SEAC's immersive tour featured the 330th Recruiting Squadron, AFRS's Special Warfare recruiting unit at its headquarters in San Antonio. Some 330th RCS recruiters were able to join the meeting from as far away as Hawaii, virtually. Discussion and questions for the seasoned special warfare PJ led to candid comments on myriad topics before a comprehensive farewell.

"I would like to personally thank you for making sure that you continue to build the bench in order to fight tomorrow's wars. We need to make sure that we continue to produce sons and daughters that are able to go ahead and fight tomorrow's wars and you are at the forefront of that," Colón-López said.

"I appreciate being your teammate."